

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FOR IOR/M IEA, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - KISSINGER

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM ENGLISH NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS  
JUNE 13:

2. SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST - "A TIME TO CUT THE CACKLE"  
QUOTE MANY WILL SYMPATHISE WITH DR. KISSINGER IN HIS  
COMPLAINT OF VICTIMISATION BY THE U.S. MEDIA OVER ALLEGED  
WIRE-TAPPING SOME TIME AGO OF ASSOCIATES ON THE NATIONAL  
SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. OTHERS, THOUGH, ARGUE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE-  
LIKE ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL - MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE  
TO SOME HIGHER PUBLIC AUTHORITY THAN THE DICTATES OF HIS  
OWN CONSCIENCE.

4. THERE IS MERIT IN BOTH VIEWS, BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE  
CLAIM THAT THE MEDIA IS SHOWING A LOP-SIDED AND DISPRO-  
PORTIONATE CONCERN OVER THE WIRE-TAPS AT THE EXPNSE OF THE  
BROADER NATIONAL INTEREST.

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5. IF THERE IS ANY COMMODITY THAT DR. KISSINGER POSSESSES IT IS CREDIBILITY, AND TO UNDERMINE THIS WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE WOULD BE CALAMITOUS.

6. FROM THIS DISTANCE, IT APPEARS THAT THE SECRETARY IS GETTING LESS THAN FAIR DEAL FROM THE MEDIA....

7. IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF REGRET IF THE MEDIA WERE TO CLOTHE ITSELF IN A MANTLE OF RECTITUDE AND SET ITSELF UP AS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE OF THE ACTIONS OF ALLPUBLIC MEN AND WOMEN....

8. THERE IS A PROPER PLACE FOR TESTING THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HE MIGHT HAVE DIRECTED WIRE-TAPPING OF AIDES AND GIVEN LESS THAN COMPLETE TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THAT IS THE COMMITTEE ITSELF....

9. IN THREATENING TO RESIGN, DR. KISSINGER PROBABLY OVER-REACTED, HOWEVER, JUSTIFIABLY. HE HAS HEATEDLY DENIED ANY IMPROPERBEHAVIOR; IT WOULD BE WISE TO LET EXPERTS DECIDE THIS, RATHER THAN HAVE THE MEDIA RUSH TO A VERDICT. UNQUOTE

10. HONGKONG STANDARD - "ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES DOC" QUOTE LIKE THE ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER DIOGENES WHO TRUDGED THE STREETS OF ATHENS DURING THE DAY ARMED WITH A LANTERN LOOKING FOR AN "HONEST MAN," THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA HAS FOR LONG BEEN ON A RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR A "MAN OF INTEGRITY AND HONESTY" IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. FOR SUCH MEN ARE RARE IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICS JUDGING BY THE RASH OF SCANDALS FOLLOWING THE WATERGATE CAPER. FOR AWHILE, PERHAPS THE ONLY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF CONSEQUENCE WHO WAS NOT TAINTEDBY WATERGATE POLITICS WAS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER - THE DIPLOMATIC WIZARD WHO COULD HAVE BEEN DUBBED "MR. CLEAN" OF AMERICAN POLITICS.

1. LAST WEEK DR. KISSINGER'S PUBLIC IMAGE FINALLY SUFFERED A SETBACK. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, FRESH FROM HIS DIPLOMATIC COUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST HE FACED A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS, MOST OF THEM HEAVILY LOADED. AT ONE STAGE HE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANGRILY EXPLODED AT THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS: "THIS IS A PRESS CONFERENCE, NOT A CROSS EXAMINATION." THE NEWS MEDIA SINCE THEN HAS TURNED THE POLITICAL HEAT ON DR. KISSINGER DESPITE HIS DENIAL OF ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1969 WIRE TAPS ON CAPITOL HILL.

12. AT A HURRIEDLY SUMMONED PRESS CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA - ON TUESDAY: HE WILL QUIT HIS JOB UNLESS HIS NAME

IS CLEARED.

13. DR. KISSINGER HAS BACKED HIS DENIAL WITH AN INVITATION TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO REOPEN ITS INVESTIGATIONS OF HIS ROLE IN THE 1969 WIRE TAP PROGRAMME. THE COMMITTEE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS ACCEPTED THIS OFFER TO INVESTIGATE. IF THIS IS SO, SHOULDN'T DR. KISSINGER BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE?....

14. WHILE THIS QUESTION REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED THE AMERICAN DILEMMA IS THAT NEITHER THE NATION NOR THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION CAN AFFORD TO LOSE THE SERVICES OF DR. KISSINGER. FOR HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE US DETENTE WITH CHINA AND RUSSIA AND THE CURRENT PEACE MOVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST - POLITICALLY FORMIDABLE JOBS BY ANY STANDARDS. TO LOSE DR. KISSINGER, AS VICE-PRESIDENT GERALD FORD HAS SAID, "WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE."....

15. THE CHINESE PAPERS COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: THE INDEPENDENT MING PAO, EXPLAINING HOW KISSINGER BECAME IMPLICATED IN PHONE TAPPING, SAID: "MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ALL SET GREAT STORE BY HIS INTEGRITY AND ABILITY. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO GIVE HIM A HARD TIME OVER SUCH A SMALL MATTER."

15. THE RIGHTIST SING PAO JIH PAO CRITICIZED AMERICAN NEWSMEN FOR "SOMETIMES ABUSING PRESS FREEDOM." "TAKING PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SUBORDINATES IN ORDER TO GUARD STATE SECRETS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW... UNLESS THE TREND (OF ABUSING PRESS FREEDOM) CAN BE AVERATED, PEOPLE CANNOT BUT BE CONCERNED OVER THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.," THE PAPER CONCLUDED.  
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